

# MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT



## *Office of Public Information*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **DEBRA A. GUTIERREZ-MCGUIRE NAMED SUPREME COURT ADMINISTRATIVE COUNSEL**

LANSING, MI, February 19, 2004 – Attorney Debra A. Gutierrez-McGuire, a Commissioner of the Michigan Supreme Court, has been appointed Administrative Counsel to the Michigan Supreme Court, the Court announced today.

Gutierrez-McGuire has served since July 2003 as Special Assistant to Chief Justice Maura D. Corrigan on Foster Care Issues. Corrigan said that Gutierrez-McGuire “provided invaluable help and counsel on a wide variety of foster care and adoption issues.” Gutierrez-McGuire was part of a work group Corrigan created to study ways to improve the adoption process in Michigan. The group issued a final report in September 2003, which resulted in several proposed court rule changes being considered by the Court.

Corrigan said that Gutierrez-McGuire’s duties as Administrative Counsel include advising the Court about proposed changes to Michigan court rules, administrative orders, and other matters related to court procedure.

Gutierrez-McGuire “is a very fine lawyer with a track record of success on challenging assignments,” Corrigan added. “We are indeed fortunate to have someone of her experience and expertise in this position.”

Gutierrez-McGuire began her career as a Juvenile Defender with Detroit-based Legal Aid and Defender Association (LADA) in 1985. She represented children in abuse and neglect cases, which often involved termination of parental rights proceedings, on both the trial and appellate level. She also served as an Assistant Attorney General, representing the Family Independence Agency in Wayne County.

In 1988, Gutierrez-McGuire joined the State Appellate Defender Office (SADO), where she specialized in representing children who had been tried as adults in criminal cases. She briefly returned to LADA in 2000 to represent children in abuse and neglect cases, then came back to SADO, where she remained until joining the Michigan Supreme Court as a Commissioner in August 2002. The Michigan Supreme Court Commissioners are the Court’s permanent legal research staff.

Gutierrez-McGuire, whose family are long-time residents of Holland, Michigan, received her undergraduate degree from Michigan State University in 1982 and her law degree from Wayne State University Law School in 1985. She resides in Grosse Pointe Park with her husband, Daniel McGuire, and their two sons.

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